

Douglas Woods Nature Preserve

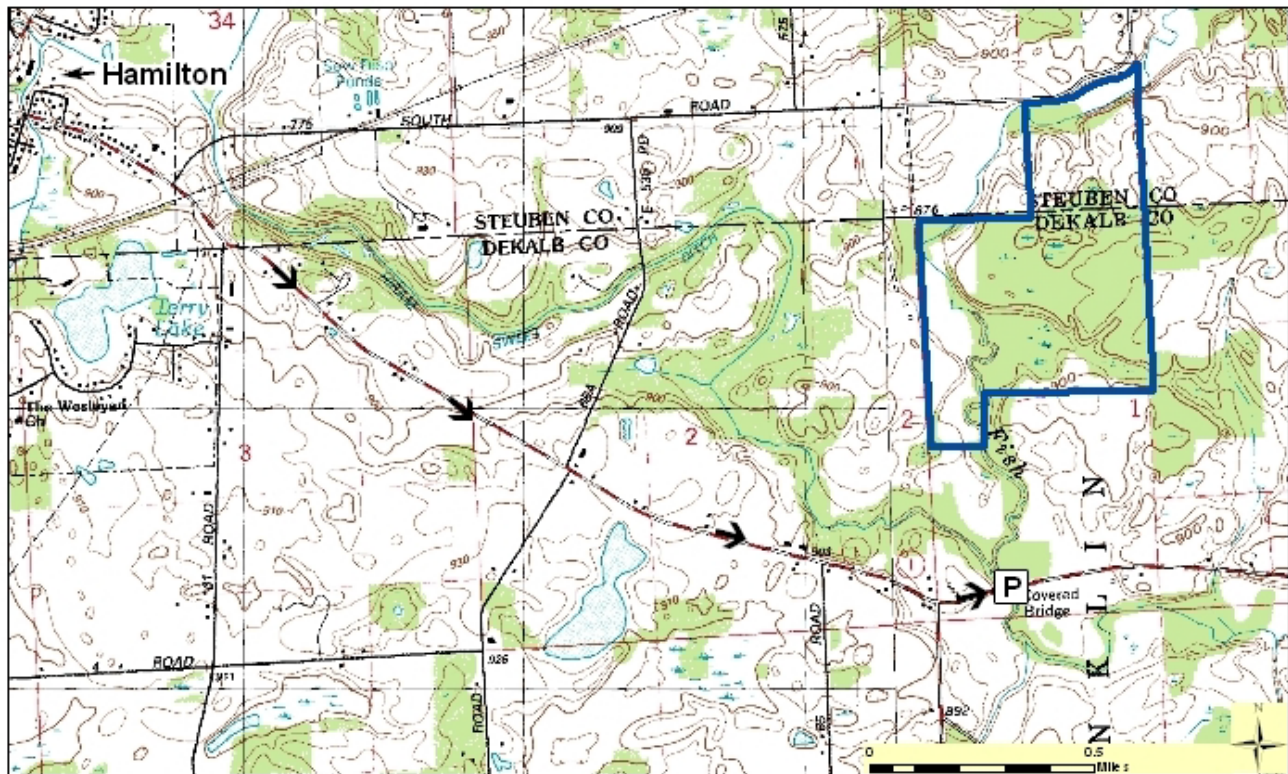
County: Steuben, DeKalb
Ownership: The Nature Conservancy

Size: 130 acres



Location and Access

Parking. No trail. From the center of Hamilton go southeast on SR 1 for 2.4 miles. SR 1 turns sharply south (R), continue straight going east on CR 4 for 0.4 mile. Park by the preserve sign, on the left, and follow the farm lane back to the woods.



Description: The natural history of Douglas Woods shows much diversity as is often the case in Indiana's Northern Lakes Region. Natural features include dry-mesic and mesic upland forests containing oak, hickory, ash, basswood, beech, and sugar maple. Floodplain forest borders Fish Creek which meanders around for over a mile through the property. Fish Creek is a very high-quality stream, and it supports several mussels that are significant from both the state and federal standpoint.

An active Great Blue Heron nesting colony is found in the woods. Old oxbows along the creek contain swamps and ponds, and the upland woods has several buttonbush swamps that are important breeding areas for frogs and salamanders.

Further Information:

The Nature Conservancy, Western Lake Erie Basin Project Office, Peachtree Plaza Ste H, 1220 N 200 W, Angola, IN 46703. (260) 665-9141, or Central Office, (317) 951-8818. www.nature.org
Division of Nature Preserves Northeast Regional Ecologist, Adam Balzer: abalzer@dnr.in.gov